



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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## HB 2030 HD 1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR STUDIES RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPACE PORT IN HAWAII

Statement for  
House Committee on  
Finance  
Public Hearing - February 22, 1988

By  
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HB 2030 HD 1 would appropriate \$320,000 to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for baseline studies relative to the possible establishment of a space port in the County of Hawaii. This statement does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The studies that would be funded by passage of this bill are all highly appropriate for the purpose described. That the University of Hawaii at Hilo should be involved in these studies is equally important. We are concerned, however, that as presently drafted the use of the funds would be restricted to the UH at Hilo. By including some funding specificity, emphasis is placed on political and economic considerations, and the environmental concerns are rendered secondary. We wish to call attention to the fact that the primary focus of the expenditure is upon the performance of reliable, high quality, comprehensive baseline studies. In that context, exclusionary designation of funding recipients is counterproductive. It stands to reason that researchers from the Big Island are more likely to have site specific expertise, and should have first priority to carry out those studies which they can competently complete. However, the option to include other institutions or researchers, as necessary, in order to insure the comprehensiveness of the studies is equally important. Flexibility in funding should be considered so as to assure that the best possible results are obtained.

Another related bill, HB 2028, would appropriate funds for the preparation of an environmental impact statement for the space port. We understand that HB 2028 is being amended to reflect the need for broader use of the funds for related environmental and technical studies necessary for site selection as well as for the preparation of the EIS. Significant overlap exists between the studies that would be funded by HB 2028 and

those funded by HB 2030 H.D.1. We suggest that coordination of efforts for the much needed environmental and baseline studies for this project is necessary. Recognition of the expertise of the University of Hawaii at Hilo should be made a binding part of any appropriation for environmental studies pertinent to spaceport/launching facilities on the Big Island. The Department of Business and Economic Development should be directed to work with the Administration of the University of Hawaii at Hilo to determine what particular facets of the studies can best be accomplished by the University of Hawaii at Hilo researchers.